

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

SAVE TASK FORCE!



Hackney Task Force, the pensioners' organisation, along with 10 other Task Force offices, is under threat of closure by its board of management. This is following a dispute which has been going on for seven months and which came to a head following the decision to close Islington Task Force.

70 JOBS & UNIQUE SERVICE

The board wishes to close down the organisation on 31 July, which will mean the loss of 70 jobs and the services provided to pensioners by the workers in the organisation. The Hackney office in Dalston Lane provides an advice centre for pensioners each morning of the week, and offers special advice and practical help for pensioners with heating problems. Part of their job involves working with volunteers to provide a much-needed practical odd job service in N16, N4, N1 and parts of E8. Support for pensioner groups is also given, as well as help in running special projects. These include a pensioners' film circuit, a series of talks and discussions on health, and the organising of social events such as Christmas parties and trips to the theatre. The different elements of the work combine to provide a unique service for pensioners not only in Hackney but in the other 10 boroughs where Task Force works. Each office uses similar work methods, but with local variations to meet pensioners' needs. A typical morning in the Hackney Task Force advice centre will bring in queries about rent increases, referrals for window cleaning, gardening, decorating, arranging to have someone's fridge

fixed to having someone taken out in their wheelchair and getting someone off on holiday safely. The loss of these services to pensioners can best be said by pensioners themselves.

SUPPORT

In a letter of support, pensioners have written to the board of management: "May I point out to you, gentlemen, that thousands of pensioners, including myself, have relied on Task Force whenever we need advice. Without them, thousands of sick, handicapped pensioners like me will have no one to take an interest in us as Task Force does."

Another pensioner added: "Closing Task Force will be sad for us pensioners, as they help us with every problem we have, such as gas and electricity bills. They find accommodation for some of us who are homeless, do odd jobs around the house that we are unable to do and also organise clubs so that we can all meet together and enjoy an evening once a month."

The dispute with the board of management is centred around the new organisational structure and conditions of employment they would like to introduce. These changes were first introduced back in October 1980. Just previous to that Islington Task Force had been given an ultimatum to stop all welfare rights work, and work with pensioners groups, and to do nothing but organise volunteers. This they refused to do, and had the support of the other Task Force workers. As many pensioners will know, volunteers do have an important role, but do not always provide the best solution. However, support for the work methods used was not given by the board and at one stage the Task Force board were out-bidding Islington Council as

WITHOUT THEM, THOUSANDS OF SICK, HANDICAPPED PENSIONERS WILL HAVE NO ONE TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN US. 9

to when the Islington Centre should be closed. Islington eventually closed in February this year.

HIERARCHY

The board of management wish to introduce a new hierarchical structure (at present Task Force has a participative management structure involving all workers in the organisation and allowing a large degree of local autonomy) and, the workers believe, by doing so they will change the nature of the work done. The workers in Task Force feel that as they are responsible for raising the vast majority of funding for the organisation, they are entitled to have some say as to how it is run and wish to negotiate over the proposed new structure. The board were unwilling to do this and, as a result, a union official for ACTSS was called in. The board still refused to negotiate and at one stage the acting chairperson communicated to the union official that "the board take the view that the staff in Task Force are best served by dealing with us and the director rather than through the intervention of third parties outside the organisation".

The board remained adamant that their changes were non-negotiable and, in an attempt to side-step the union and the workers, the board convened a meeting of local funders. The aim of the meeting was to persuade the local authorities to fund local independent centres. This move was done without consulting the employees and proved to be a failure as the funders were unhappy to see Task Force split up and wanted the dispute settled by using the normal channels. This meeting was held in March. It was then said that the board would hand over control to a new board. This



Pensioners in the Task Force office. Where will they go now?

was later denied.

A Task Force association was formed with pensioners and workers from other agencies throughout London who worked with Task Force. Members from this association are willing to form a new board.

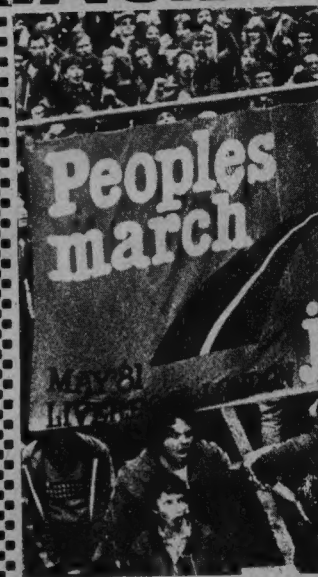
SAVE IT

A Save It campaign was started with a public meeting at the Camden Centre on 19 May. The small hall was packed out with over 200 people, mainly pensioners, from all over London, expressing their support for Task Force. The meeting was chaired by Cecil Sharpley, chairperson of Greater London Pensioners Trade Union Action Association, and the speakers included Camden councillor Anna Bowman. The meeting decided to picket the home of Anthony Steen MP, acting chairperson for the Task Force board of management.

It is hoped to save the closure of Task Force by persuading the board of management to hand over control of the organisation to the new board.

Anyone wanting to have more information can contact the local Task Force centre at 16 Dalston Lane, E8; tel 254 1620.

INSIDE



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VANISHING POINT..

POUFF! JUST LIKE THAT!

If Mrs Thatcher wants to make the people of Hackney very happy, she should call a general election at once. More specifically, if she wants to make two particular people connected with Hackney very happy indeed, she should do so. Who are these two people and is she likely to show them any favours?

I refer, of course, to the honourable members of parliament for Hackney South and Shoreditch, Ron Brown, and for Hackney Central, Stanley Clinton Davis. The reason why they would be most happy for Mrs T to go completely round the twist (has anyone else noticed the maniacal Keith Joseph glint in her eyes of late?) and summon the country to the polls is that one of them will not be fighting the next election, in Hackney at least. This is not connected with either's possible non-reselection under the new Labour Party procedures (more of that later), but is purely and simply because Hackney Central is scheduled to disappear. Pouff! Just like that! One huff and puff from the boundary commissioners (an independent body, we are assured) and Hackney Central is to be blown off the map.

Half of it will go into Hackney North, and half into Hackney South.

In Hackney North, it is most unlikely that anything will stop Ernie Roberts from getting reselected. He's got all the credentials, a signer of every petition, a supporter of all the big, brave campaigns, a tireless letter-writer with a terrible wardrobe - how could anyone find anything wrong with Ernie? That's why Brother Ron and Brother Stanley will be left battling it out for the other seat.

My prediction is that Ron would win by a short head, if all other things were equal. He's always jumping up and down in Parliament, saying things about his constituency. And he probably knows more about the borough (because he lives in it) than either the double-barrelled Mr Davis or Hackney North's Mr Red. (Indeed, the lovable Ernie is well-known for his eccentric and sometimes downright stupid statements. His recent claim that he could tell that the recession was getting worse because there were so many jumble sales advertised in the Hackney Gazette must rank among the

silliest things ever said in the House of Commons.)

On the other hand we have Brother Ron. His biggest drawback is that he looks and sounds exactly like his brother George, who is now reduced to punditry in the Sunday Express. His was the Labour Party that the papers knew and loved. When the Party was led by honourable men (like Harold Wilson?). When everyone knew their place, and didn't keep bringing up the dirty word "socialism". That, thank God, is in the past.

However, the Hackney South and Shoreditch Labour Party will make up two-thirds of the new constituency. There are some signs in the few wards where the trendies live that the same kind of stirring that led to the recent left coup in Hackney Central is on the rise. But the heart of the constituency is in the wards which are completely council estate-dominated. And it is a sign of the Labour Party times that these wards are - and seem likely to remain - "unreconstructed".

But, of course, everything else is not equal. Stanley Clinton Davis has been making a name for himself as a prominent supporter of the middle-of-the-road Labour Solidarity campaign, and has hosted

meetings in the Commons and Hackney Town Hall. He will certainly have the big guns in the Parliamentary Party on his side, if the final selection ended in some Prentice-like Newham shoot-out with some local leftie. Chaps from the BBC in sheepskin jackets standing with microphones in Dalston Lane, hacks from the Daily Mail looking for bedsitter Trotskyists in Amhurst Road, statements from Merlyn Rees and Roy Hattersley...?

WHOSE GAIN?

This is why the brothers at Westminster are hoping that something brings the Government down before its time. An election fought soon would be on the old boundaries. But, I regret to have to tell you, Mrs Thatcher is unlikely to want to call an election soon. (That statement will probably win me a prize as the most astute political commentator this side of Ludgate Circus. I'm waiting for your call, Mr Murdoch!) The boundary revisions as a whole will probably work in the Tories' favour, and it is

not unknown for parties to wait for these sort of things to come into effect before they rush to judgement.

Of course, there are those who also want to wait longer for an election. Now is the time when those who have never fought an election before are queueing up to become a PPC. That, in the jargon of those who like to talk about these sort of things, stands for Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. There are a number of prospective PPCs amongst the gold-diggers in the Hackney Labour Parties these days. Our eyes are mainly directed south of the river to Dulwich where ex-student leader and high-jumper Catharine Hoey is on the shortlist. And to other points around the country where ex-student leader and weight lifter Charles Clarke is sizing up the chances. And, of course, there's a plum seat in Hackney North, where any number of candidates might emerge if Ernie decides that one term in Parliament is enough (not much chance there - the last MP went on sitting until he was 81!). And an even nicer seat in Hackney South, should there be a real bust-up. All these people want Mrs T to stay on as long as possible. As of course we all do...don't we?

ESTATE DEATH BEHIND TIN

An 80-year-old woman was found dead in a tinned-up flat on Clapton's Southwold estate early in April. She had lived alone in the flat, which had remained with all its windows and door completely covered with corrugated iron, at her request, since she moved in.

Delay

Two days after being notified that Norah Pitt had not been seen by neighbours for some time, the housing department mobile patrol broke in. They found her dead, and a post-mortem revealed that she had had a heart attack. Now an internal inquiry is going on to see whether it is usual to allow tenants who don't

feel safe on the ground floor to live in tinned-up flats, and whether the North East District Housing Office should have acted sooner in investigating whether Norah Pitt was all right. This investigation may go to the local Ombudsman to decide if there has been maladministration by council officers.

Damp

As well as being without any natural light, Norah Pitt's flat was almost certainly extremely damp. It was while visiting a client next door, whose flat was later declared unfit for habitation on the grounds of dampness, that a worker from the Hackney Citizens' Rights Group found out that Ms Pitt

had not been seen. She tried the flat herself, and when she got no reply, telephoned the District Housing Office, who promised to send the mobile patrol around later that day. Two days later, the worker found out that the patrol had still not called and said she would call the police. The patrol was then sent out, and discovered Ms Pitt's body.

Insecure

There is no doubt that Norah Pitt wanted to live "tinned up" in the manner that she did. But the solution for elderly tenants who feel insecure is surely to supply them with decent accommodation, instead of condemning them to live in unhealthy and unfit homes.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Gala greet the March

With no expense spared, Hackney People's Press brings you an eye-witness account direct from Coventry, where we sent a reporter to cover part of the People's March For Jobs.

Unemployment in Coventry is at 14 per cent - three times what it is in London, so I was only one of 9,000 who applauded the marchers as they arrived in the city centre. All those attending the rally were urged to attend the great People's March demonstration in London, and one marcher assured me that people all along the route were swearing that they'd be in London too, and he was confidently expecting 250,000 people to join the demonstration.

The workers in Coventry had set up a People's March shop to organise support during the month of action and unemployed workers there plan to open an action centre for themselves, something that we should consider copying in Hackney.

As we go to press, places for the Hackney Jobs Not Bombs march, jointly organised by Hackney Trades Council and Hackney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament are well advanced. The march starts from Shoreditch Church and will join the main demonstration on the morning of Sunday May 31, led by a band and a float.

As the Tories are now threatening three million unemployed by the end of the year with no sign of any alteration in their desire to destroy British manufacturing industry, as was evident in the display of union banners on the Coventry section of the march. General Electrics, Massey Ferguson, British Leyland, Triumph, Rolls-Royce have all suffered, and Rolls-Royce convenor Phil Higgs thanked the marchers on behalf of the town's Labour movement, while the Indian Workers' Association



The two sections of the People's March join together in Northampton and set off to London to bring down the Government.

placed a traditional garland round the neck of each marcher.

While the vast numbers on the streets of London at the end of this historic march is a welcome sight, it is vital that we don't all go home afterwards and curse " Thatcherism". A viable alternative economic strategy must be drawn up, and as evi-

dence of that this is already happening, it is heartening to see the Labour GLC's commitments to a huge extension of worker control in the capital, and it is to be hoped that the flourishing co-operative sector in Hackney, though currently still small, will be supported and expanded.

PARENTS GUARD JEWISH SCHOOL

During April the Simon Marks Jewish Primary School in Cazenove Road, Stamford Hill, was attacked three times at night by nazis.

Walls and the Star of David were desecrated, tools stolen, desks overturned and arson caused £20,000-£30,000 of damage. Slogans were daubed on the walls, saying things like "Yids go home" and "Belsen was a gas". The fire damage was mainly confined to the stockroom, which had been set alight, because the alarm was fortunately raised by a passer-by.

These attacks are typical of the upsurge in anti-semitic propaganda and violence, including bomb attacks, that have taken place throughout Europe, especially over the last year.

Parents at the Simon Marks School are deeply worried about their children's safety,

and they have expressed great disquiet over the lack of information, communication and action from the Zionist Federation Educational Trust and ILEA, who run the school.

DANGER

Many of the parents feel the danger to the 200 children at the school has been played down and hushed up, and no security measures have been taken by either of the two bodies. Therefore they have organised themselves to guard the school during the day, when the children are there, and are also keeping watch on the school by night.

The local branches of the National Union of Teachers and the Anti Nazi League have also been able to offer support.

FLOODED

Smalley Road estate in Stoke Newington has been the focus of attention several times over the last few years, after major design and building faults were found, which led to terrible problems of damp in flats that were less than two years old. A repair programme costing somewhere between one and two million pounds (the actual figure is hard to determine) was put in hand, and part of this is now complete.

Unfortunately some more major boobies seem to have been made. On the first day of heavy rain after the repairs were complete, no less than 16 maisonettes were flooded, with up to three inches of water in some.

The tenants' association are stoical after so much has happened to them. They have called a public meeting for all tenants, to find out how bad the situation is. They have also asked for a special meeting of the panel of councillors and council officers which was set up when the troubles first started. This has so far not met, and is unlikely to do so. Its chairperson is Housing Management Committee chair Charles Cable, and he has refused to see a tenants' deputation.

Swept

This year the Hackney Show promises to be the usual mixture of worthy organisations and commercial free enterprise, in the shape of candy-floss and hamburger stalls, but there will be two distinct changes also.

The previous ban on political organisations has been lifted to allow Hackney CND to have a stall.

Missing this year will be the Mayor's Tent, which only dignitaries were allowed into. The new broom at the Council's Leisure Services Committee, Catharine Hoey, has swept away the frivolous expense of a special marquee, complete with uniformed flunkies and light refreshments in a cost-cutting exercise.

Action in common

About 60 people from community groups across Hackney crowded into an imposing room in the old Shoreditch Town Hall for the Hackney Community Action annual general meeting.

HCA was born in December last year from the merger of the two groups, Hackney Community Link-Up and Hackney People in Partnership, which had been concerned with building links between community groups, and developing a forum for discussion of how the Partnership programme could help people in the borough.

The meeting was the usual mixture of optimism and frustration. The positive side was the large number and diversity of the participants, and an impressive list of future plans for HCA's work. The negative side was the sheer frustration of dealing with the council machinery: HCA representatives are often called to meetings with very little notice, and have only recently been given the opportunity to see and put items on to the agenda in advance. The further drawback is that this frustration leads to greater bureaucracy and more emphasis on committees and meetings on the part of the community activists themselves. This is the opinion of the Hackney People's Press reporter, at least, who proposed to the meeting that HCA should not elect representatives to Council sub-committees, panels or working groups that did not meet regularly.

The plans for next year's work included proposals for major input into the Labour manifesto for next year's Council elections. This will include working parties (yes, more!) on various policy themes, for example, play provision, housing and council democracy. HCA will also be initiating programmes at local levels, and may include building neighbourhood councils. How much space they are given to work in depends on the attitude of the Council - and, on past form, they will probably play safe.

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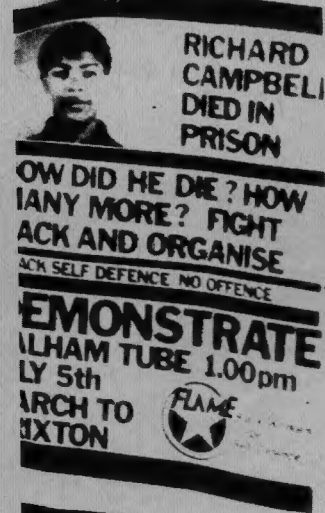
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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

ADMISSION FREE

Richard Campbell



Following the death of company member Matthew O'Hara after ill-treatment in Pentonville Prison last year, Centerprise has been extending its range of publications on prison conditions. "Most of us, fortunately, haven't been to prison," a bookshop worker explained, "so prisons are like a foreign country and books telling the inside story are very important if we are to understand why there have been so many prison deaths recently."

frightening reading

The latest addition to stock makes frightening reading. *The Death Of Richard 'Cartoon' Campbell* tells the story of the last four weeks in the life of a black teenager from south London. At 7 am on 31 March last year, Richard was found dead in a solitary cell at Ashford Remand Centre. The account of how he died was pieced together by a public inquiry run by his local trades council.

Arrested on 1 March for an offence he probably didn't commit, Richard was at first

cheerful and optimistic that he would be found Not Guilty. But when Camberwell magistrates sent him to Ashford for medical and psychiatric reports, his cheerfulness ceased. "I could hear him shouting at night," a fellow prisoner told the inquiry, "clinging on to the bars of the windows...he used to shout, 'Gimme a chance'."

forcefeeding

Like 28 per cent of black prisoners, Richard belonged to the Rastafarian cult, a religion the Home Office refused to recognise. The inquiry heard how this meant Rastafarian prisoners had to eat "taboo" foods... or go without. Richard went without. He began a partial fast, a ritual procedure for "purging" the body of contamination. Because of his religion and his behaviour the Remand Centre decided he was seriously mentally ill and on 26 March they began to forcefeed him - something quite illegal on a sane person. Every day junior medical staff and prison officers held him down as a tube was forced through his nostril into his stomach and two pints of milk mixed with complan poured into it. The mixture was probably too rich and on at least one occasion it was vomited back, damaging his gullet and lungs. Dr Beck, a senior medical lecturer from London University, told the inquiry that he could imagine no worse place to attempt the delicate and dangerous business of forcefeeding than the medical wing of a penal establishment. Ashford, however, turned down two opportunities to have Richard transferred to a NHS hospital, and after hearing the evidence, the inquiry could "only conclude that Richard Campbell did not die from self-neglect...Ashford bears full responsibility for his death". Perhaps the first time a jury has returned a verdict of Guilty on a prison!

The Death Of Richard 'Cartoon' Campbell is on sale for 50p at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, or by post for 64p from Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council, 69 Hillbrook Road, SE17. The Friends And Family Of Richard Campbell Committee can be contacted c/o 135 Lavender Hill, SW11.

LOOKING BACK IN VICTORY

The 50 members of the National Union of Journalists at BPC publishing division who were sacked, locked out and who occupied a suite of offices in Hackney for three months from December to March have achieved a substantial victory over repressive management tactics. They were taken back to work on 13 March with full reinstatement of terms and conditions and an agreement on staffing levels.

The occupation began in response to BPC management's mass sacking and lock-out of the entire NUJ chapel (union branch) over the members' attendance of mandatory meetings in defence of jobs. In October 1980 the management announced a second round of redundancies at Macdonald Futura (one of the BPC companies) of that year. The chapel felt that these were unacceptable for both union and professional reasons. The publishing programme was being increased, not reduced; management intended to produce the work by giving it to secretaries, directors and putting large amounts out to freelancers in breach of the NUJ agreement. The redundancies would have reduced the company below operating capacity and in fact worsened its financial position. In addition, NUJ members were being singled out. Of the nine proposed redundancies, seven were union members. The chapel rejected the redundancies and produced a plan involving a reorganisation of the company which would have saved the required amount of money and jobs in question.

right to manage?

Management chose to ignore this plan on the grounds that it was 'management's right to manage' and broke off talks and issued notices to the individuals concerned. The union demanded that the management should withdraw the notices, and then embarked on a period of disruption. This provoked a threat of tabling. On February 16 Lord Kearton was appointed chairman of BPC and Robert Maxwell vice chairman and chief executive. His survival plan had yet to be approved by the banks and shareholders. mass sacking which was put into force in November last year. Chapel members reported for work as usual. On 8 December, NUJ members arrived for

work to find the doors locked and security guards on the doors of all company premises. Fortunately, the NUJ members were able to gain access to a floor of BPC's premises in Worship Street, EC2, which was shared by two other companies. A meeting was convened immediately and a unanimous decision taken to maintain a full-time occupation.

This occupation continued for three months. Eight volunteers stayed locked in for five days over the Christmas period with no heating, but full of Christmas cheer donated by supporters such as Hackney Trades Council who gave a welcome turkey and champagne. During this time, management came back with two offers, both of which were loaded with conditions which the chapel had to agree to before being taken back to work. Both were rejected and the chapel stayed firm in spite of severe financial hardship which was growing weekly in spite of generous donations from supporters.

Maxwell bid

A radical change in the situation came about in January, when BPC was facing the receivers. Another shock announcement stated that maverick entrepreneur Robert Maxwell had put in a bid for BPC. He was offering a survival plan which would involve redundancies of about 25 per cent of the workforce on the printing side of BPC in return for an injection of £10 million cash from his company, Pergamon. This was on the condition that he got the agreement of the unions.

The NUJ saw its chance. The Department of Trade and Industry in 1971 had declared Maxwell in their opinion "not a person who can be relied on to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly-quoted company". He was being watched very carefully by the business es-

"brilliant"

The NUJ assessed the possibility of making an approach to Maxwell. The publishing division was the last of the companies within the corporation to be sorted out. As it turned out, it had to make up for a shortfall of £2 million which had not been saved elsewhere. The chapel saw that if it did

not make a move, the publishing division would be closed down or put into a "care and maintenance" position, and their chances of ever returning to work destroyed. It prepared a detailed paper for Maxwell outlining the necessity of maintaining the publishing side of the operation and also to refute the massive propaganda put out by the hawks in the old management blaming the dispute for the publishing division's problems. Maxwell declared the paper "brilliant" and came back with a ludicrous offer of a return to work on an hourly basis to "clear up" and become involved in consultations on the future of the publishing side. A week of negotiations began. During this time, the negotiators succeeded in pushing Maxwell's offer from a freelance hourly-paid status with no back pay guarantee to one of a return to work at fully employed status, a small back-pay guarantee and full continuity of service rights to all members, and a continuation of talks on staffing levels.

After long discussions, the chapel agreed to a return-to-work formula to achieve its first aim - defeat of the sackings and reinstatement.

"ceasefire"

After the "ceasefire" on 13 March, meetings were set up to decide on the survival plan and staffing levels. During this time, the NUJ managed to prove the complete incompetence of the old management which resulted in the sacking of several senior executives. Discussions on staffing levels resulted in the NUJ upping Maxwell's initial offer of 16 jobs out of 50 in the NUJ area to 35. Twelve people had accepted other jobs during the dispute, but had not given in notice so as not to leave the posts unfilled. They left at this point as did three others who accepted voluntary redundancy.

The achievements of the NUJ in extremely difficult circumstances were to overthrow and publicly humiliate the management who had started the dispute, to be instrumental in setting up the survival plan, to obtain full reinstatement and to ensure a continued NUJ presence within BPC.

HEALTH NEWS

A LEADING ISSUE

RUSHMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL in Lower Clapton has a recorded lead level nine times greater than the recommended safety

limit and came second in a league table of lead polluted schools in inner London. This was discovered in a recent GLC survey of 28 schools in Inner London and presented to the ILEA Schools Committee.

The survey team refused to name the schools concerned in case parents 'panicked' but the list was obtained and published by the New Statesman in April.

The major cause of lead pollution, it emerged, is leaded petrol emitted from car exhausts and there is now growing evidence of a firm link between poor educational attainment and even quite low levels of lead pollution in children.

The Government is currently proposing to cut the amount of lead in petrol by two-thirds, but many people believe petrol should be completely lead free.

The issue of lead pollution was discussed at the recent Community Health Council (CHC) meeting and they are interested in getting in touch with anyone who wants to get involved in a campaign for lead-free petrol.

The Community Psychiatry Research Unit (CPRU) at Hackney Hospital has compiled a handbook on the mentally ill in the borough, entitled 'Information about Services and Facilities for the Mentally

Ill'. It is based on talks and information given at three workshops organised by CPRU last year.

The handbook provides a list of names and addresses of people and organisations offering help to the mentally ill, both short and long term and covers three aspects: treatment and after-care, housing and employment. The CHC has a limited number of copies of the book but it can also be obtained direct from CPRU, Hackney Hospital, Homerton High Street, E9.

PROTEST AND CELEBRATE



This year's Hackney Anti Nuclear Festival - again in Clissold Park - will be on 21 June, Midsummer and International Sun Day. Like last year, there will be music, theatre and stalls, but this year there will be more. The festival will be a celebration of alternative energy: wind generators, solar panels, heat pumps - all will be exhibited!

You will be able to see how alternative energy works. HANG is demonstrating that

The idea of nuclear-free zones is gaining ground. Haringey has declared itself a nuclear-free zone, and there are hopes that the new Labour GLC might succeed in banning the transportation of nuclear waste through London, thus making London a nuclear-free zone.

While we sincerely hope that this will happen, we must not have any illusions. Rerouting the nuclear waste around London will not solve the problem of the involved dangers at all, but will only shift it somewhere else. The threat from nuclear power remains.

The nuclear power stations at Dungeness and at Bradwell had been closed down for a few months because cracks had been discovered in the cooling system. Now the CEBG have decided - because they cannot mend the cracks

- that these cracks are so tiny that they don't matter, and both nuclear power stations are going into operation again, defective as they are.

As long as 11 per cent of the electricity is generated by nuclear power, any talk of "nuclear-free zones" will be a farce.

We have to realise that nuclear power affects us all, whether the atomic waste passes just behind our back garden or whether it is spilled into the Irish Sea at Windscale. Nuclear power is a national and international issue. Japanese nuclear waste is processed at Windscale, English waste is dumped into the Atlantic just off the French coast, the Irish Sea has the highest level of radioactivity in the world in spite of Ireland still being a nuclear-free country. Radiation leaks from Le Hague in France affect holiday makers in Brighton.

Thatcher has ordered ten more nuclear power stations but at the same time the CEBG are closing down existing coal power stations because they are producing more electricity than they can sell.

The Hackney Anti Nuclear Group has focused its campaigning during the last six months on uranium mining. This means robbing Australian Aborigines and American Indians of their land, collaborating with South Africa and illegally trading with Namibia. It leads to hundreds of miles of wasted and contaminated land, American, African and Australian miners suffering and dying from cancer, millions of pounds in profits for multinational

mining companies.

RTZ (Rio Tinto Zinc) is a British-based multinational company which operates uranium mines in Namibia, Australia and America. They produce 20 per cent of the Western world's uranium (the raw material for nuclear power and atomic weapons) and are Britain's largest supplier. Actually over 50 per cent of Britain's uranium comes from Namibia, contrary to the Namibian people's will, contrary to international law, from the Rossing Mine where exploited labourers are not allowed to form trades unions. Hackney Anti Nuclear Group has staged a picket at RTZ's headquarters in central London, supported the public tribunal against RTZ at Conway Hall, organised film shows on uranium mining and produced a slide show.

there are alternatives to nuclear power. So come along, bring your kids (there will be special children's events) and enjoy and inform yourself.

HANG is only a small group of people, and desperately needs help for the festival. If you want to help, please come to our meetings on 4 and 11 June, both at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St., E8, at 8 pm, or contact HANG on 226 1799.

DRIVING ON THE LEFT

Transport is an issue that affects everyone directly. We need transport to carry out most of the things we do - to go to work, to go shopping, to visit friends. And we are affected by transport almost everywhere - air pollution, danger crossing the street, noise and vibrations at home.

For many workers, travel to work has become an issue as important as any other "conditions of work" issue. It's important for unions to oppose bus and rail cuts, and increasingly many trade unionists are doing so. Issues like car allowances have become important. Not merely how much they should be, but whether they should be sought at all, and whether concessions for use of public transport should be demanded in negotiations.

Under the present Government, severe reductions in bus and rail services make it harder for many people to get where they want to go. Proposals for urban motorways and for the 44-tonne lorry will make life less bearable.

Transport is a political issue, whether we like it or not. There have been quite clear political motives behind the rundown of rail and bus services in the past. There are political motives, for example, in the Government's efforts to maintain roadbuilding programmes when most other spending is being axed - in fact, roads and nuclear power stations are the only things (defence apart) which Mrs Thatcher won't cut.

The election of Labour County and Metropolitan Councils, many of which are committed to cheap fares policies, now gives ground for

hope in the passenger transport sector. But that's not the end of the fight. Not all transport is controlled by local authorities anyway. The National Bus Company expects to have its services cut drastically because of the interest charges it is saddled with.

Until recently, the Left had very little to say about transport, and what it has said has not really been good enough; the demand for "an integrated transport policy" does not have very much immediate meaning or aim. It is because of this that the Socialist Environment and Resources Association (SERA) has convened its conference for 13 June to discuss what a socialist transport policy should be. Its aim will be to develop the outlines of a

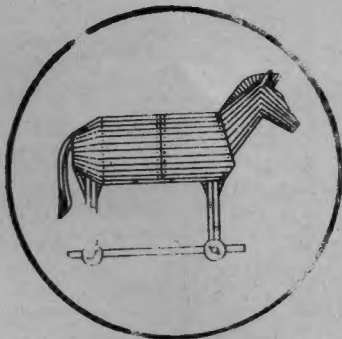
socialist transport policy - what its objectives should be, and what we can do to lay the foundations for it now.

The conference will focus on three specific areas: Local Public Transport; Lorries, Roads and the Economy and Transport and Politics.

Everyone in the community can see transport problems in close-up, and can contribute ideas, and learn from the experience of others of ways to improve their situation.

Details of the conference are available from Socialist Environment and Resources Association (SERA), 9 Poland Street, W1 (tel 439 3749). The conference will be held at the South Bank Poly Students' Union, Rotary Street, SE1.

Trojan moves horse



Trojan Printing Services, one of the first co-ops set up in Hackney, has moved to larger ground-floor premises with more facilities in Stoke Newington.

After beginning in a front room in Ball's Pond Road, Trojan moved to the third floor of 85 Dalston Lane six months later. Now after a year there, Trojan has expanded to four full-time workers and hopes to expand to at least twice that number in the next six months. This expansion is to cope with the much larger quantity of work they expect to be generated by the acquisition of an A3 press, which enables them to do posters and magazines.

"We are also developing a lively export market in badges," said one of the workers, "and last week we had orders from Amsterdam, Hamburg and Botswana."

In their new premises, Trojan also have a large guillotine and another process camera, enabling them

to produce better quality plates for offset litho printing. In addition, they continue to offer their previous badge-making, printing, photocopying and copy print services.

Trojan's success during the darkest days of Thatcherism shows that co-ops are here to stay in Hackney and are going to become a very powerful sector of the local economy. "Our success depends on our support from the local Labour movement and community groups and we would like to express our thanks to them and also to assure them that we continue to offer our same good-value service," said a spokesperson. "However, offering good value for money does not imply that we intend to exploit ourselves. We will ensure that within the near future we will develop better pay and conditions than our commercial rivals."

Trojan are at 47a Grayling Road, N16, tel 809 2889. Hackney Co-op Developments are at 16 Dalston Lane, E8.



WHAT'S ON June

If you want a free listing in our What's On section, send details of your event to HPP, 85 Dalston Lane, E8. Listings for July must be received by Friday 19 June.

ADVERTISEMENT

THEATRE

LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE
14 Dagmar Passage, Cross St, N1
(Book by phone on: 226 1787)

Sats & Suns from 6 June:
Movingstage Marionettes present Bottom's Dream, the rustic and fairy scenes from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Suitable for those of 7 years and over.
Perfs: 3pm.



Shows for the 3-6 year olds:
Sats 6, 13, 20, 27 June:
Movingstage Marionettes with Monkey Business. A popular show full of variety for the younger audience.
Perfs. 11am.

Prices:
Afternoons at 3pm -
Adults £1.75
Children £1.25
Mornings at 11am -
Adults £1.25
Children £1.00

NEW HALF MOON THEATRE
213 Mile End Road, E1.
(Box Office: 790 4000)

Daily until 6 June:
Ezra, by Bernard Kops.
Phone box office for times of performances.

From Thurs 11 June:
The Worlds by Edward Bond, performed by the Eighth Day Theatre. An analysis of the use of violence by modern society, 'The Worlds' argues that our society uses law and order to maintain injustice, that our democracy is run on mystification, stunted morality and - finally - violence.

OLD HALF MOON
27 Alie Street, E1.
(Box Office: 790 4000)

Mon & Tues 1 & 2 June:
Chicken in the Breadpan
Wed 3 - Sat 13 June:
Cast theatre company present Sedition '81. Cast was founded in 1965 by Claire and Roland Muldoon and is the oldest surviving political theatre company in the country. In 'Sedition '81' Roland Muldoon is back again as the crazed red dope-fiend living on an Arts Council grant. Joining him are Ray Meredith, Kate Rutter, Claire Muldoon and Bill McDonnell.
Mon 15 - Sat 20 June:
Graeae Theatre Company presents Sideshow. This show features an array of characters trapped in a fairground freak show, and through songs and sketches they explore their experiences and their determination to be treated as 'real' people.

Half Moon Young People's Theatre will be performing around Tower Hamlets with their world premiere of Cabaret. To find out where

they are playing, phone 739 9093.

For times of performances and details about plays listed, phone the Half Moon Box Office.

THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST
Gerry Raffles Square, E15.
(Box Office: 534 0310)

Mons - Sats until 20 June:
Hamlet, by William Shakespeare. Directed by Lindsay Anderson and with Frank Grimes as Hamlet.
Perfs: 7.30 pm.

Sun 14 June: The Theatre Royal presents Sunday Cabaret, a show with a variety flavour and featuring performers such as Judith Baxter, Richard and Simone, Sheila Staefel and The Buskers.

THE SQUARE THING (The Theatre Royal's studio theatre in the car park)

From 4 June: London Calling by Tony Marchant. A second play by the author of the recent production of 'Remember Me?'

For further details phone the Theatre Royal Box Office.

CINEMA

KONAK CINEMA 11 Stoke Newington Rd (254 2415)

June Programme

Sun 31: The Wanderers & (May) Choir Boys
Sun 7: The Postman Always Rings Twice
Sun 14: The Antagonist
Sun 21: Friday 13th Part II

All programmes run for 7 days.
Tickets: £1.90 Adults
£1.00 Children

RIO CINEMA 107 Kingsland High St, E8 (254 6677)
For details of this month's programmes, see the Rio ad.

MUSIC

CROWN & CASTLE

Dalston Junction, E8.
(Telephone 254 3678)
The Meeting Place folk club has Irish folk music every Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings, performed by resident band Cara, plus surprise guests.
8.30-11.00 pm. Free.

THE PEGASUS 109 Green Lanes, N16. (226 5930)

Resident and guest bands every night of the week.
Open from 8pm.

Bands in June:

Mon 1: Brunel (HM) 75p
Mon 8, 15, 22, 29: Black Market (Reggae Rockers) 75p
Tuesdays: new groups (all 75p)
Wednesdays: JJ and the Flyers £1.00
Thursdays: Hank Wangford £1.25 (open till 11.30)
Fridays: Juice on the Loose £1.00
Saturdays: Big Chief £1.20
Sun 7, 14: Ricky Cool and the Rialtos £1.20
Sun 21, 28: The London Apaches £1.00

Open from 8pm.

MEETINGS

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO MENTAL HOSPITALS & PRISONS

Wed 17 June: Tony Ward on 'What is a Radical Alternative' to prisons.

Wed 24 June: Meeting to discuss how a local project gives offenders a 'Second Chance'.

Both meetings at Centerprise (basement), 136-8 Kingsland High St, E8. Start: 7.30 pm. The meetings are part of the Hackney WEA and Matthew O'Hara Committee classes. Fee: 40p per meeting, 20p claimants and pensioners.

HACKNEY FIGHTBACK

Meetings on the first Monday of the month. Meetings are open to affiliated groups to discuss strategy for fighting cuts in local services.
8pm at the Labour & Trades Club, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

MATTHEW O'HARA COMMITTEE

Thurs 4 June: Public meeting for anyone concerned about conditions in prisons and mental hospitals. 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

FIGHTBACK AGAINST PRIVATE MEDICINE

Sat 20 June: Conference, organised by Fightback, to work out a strategy for fighting private medicine and the cuts in the NHS. It is a delegate conference and hopes to include support from active cuts campaigners, members of health and public sector trade union branches, and trades unionists in the private sector whose members are being encouraged to join health insurance schemes.
10am-5pm at Starcross School, Risinghill St, N1.
For registration form, write to: Fightback, 30 Camden Rd, LONDON NW1.

ACORN TENANTS' ASSOCIATION

Thurs 4 June: Open meeting for Acorn tenants to meet other New Islington & Hackney Housing Association tenants. Topics include transfers and tenancy agreements.
7.30pm at the Tenants' Association Hall, Joseph Ct Block, Amhurst Park, N16. (253 bus, Manor House tube, Stamford Hill BR.)

OTHER EVENTS

HACKNEY CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT (HCND)

Sat 20 June: Community Day School, to discuss the main issues of disarmament, both political and practical. The school is aimed at all those interested in disarmament, who do not consider themselves experts and wish to know more. If you want to register, contact Ken Spours, 115 Powerscroft Road, E5 (tel 533 2388). The day school will last from 10.30 - 5.30 at the All Nations Club, Martello Street, E8.

UNEMPLOYMENT MARCH

Sat 30 May: Rock for Jobs, a rally and music festival to welcome the Unemployment March when it arrives in London. To be held in Brockwell Park, SW4.
Sun 31 May: March from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square. Assemble at Hyde Park by 1.00 pm.

Mon 1 June: Meeting for all women in Hackney about the possibility of setting up a Hackney Women's Centre. 8 pm in Hackney Trades Hall.

ADVERTISEMENT



42/44, Brooksby's Walk, London E9. 986 6714

EVENTS AT CHATS IN JUNE

- Thu 4 at 8 pm ... Jazz with the HACKNEY ALL STARS: Elton Dean, Geoff Green, Marcio Mattos and Will Evans. 60p
- Fri 5 at 8 pm ... Hackney Musicians' Collective Benefit with OXY & THE MORONS, THE RUSSIANS & DELETED.
- Sat 6 at 8 pm ... MR GEORGE BINMORE'S CELEBRATED MUSIC HALL. £1.50 (OAPs/Children 75p)
- Sun 7 noon ... Lunchtime Jazz with the JOHN BENNETT BIG BAND. 60p (accompanied children free)
- Sun 7 at 8 pm ... MR GEORGE BINMORE'S CELEBRATED MUSIC HALL. £1.50 (OAPs/Children 60p)
- Thu 11 at 8 pm ... HACKNEY FESTIVAL '81 presents Graeae Theatre Company in SIDESHOW. Admission free. Event sponsored by Hackney Borough Directorate of Leisure.
- Fri 12 at 8 pm ... Benefit for Hackney Central Labour Party Young Socialists (to be confirmed).
- Sat 13 at 8 pm ... Hackney City Farm Barn Dance. With FLOWERS & FROLICS and GRANNY'S PANTRY. £1.50 (75p OAPs and kids)
- Sun 14 noon ... Trad Jazz with GRAHAM READ. 60p (kids free)
- Mon 15 at 8 pm ... HPA Summer Playscheme meeting.
- Thu 18 at 8 pm ... Jazz with the WILL EVANS GROUP £1.50 (75p unwaged)
- Fri 19 at 8 pm ... THE ENEMY WITHIN - play about the rise of fascism in Germany seen through the eyes of a group of women. £1.50 (OAPs 75p)
- Sat 20 at 8 pm ... Benefit for East End News with THE SLEAZE KAT DIVE BAR CABARET
- Sun 21 noon ... Hackney Festival '81 presents THE HOT CLUB OF HACKNEY featuring Mike Piggott. Free.
- Tues 23 at 8 pm ... LONDON CALLING (play by East End writer). Phone for prices
- Wed 24 at 8 pm ... Chats Palace Club & Bar AGM. All club members welcome.
- Thu 25 - Sun 28 ... THE ALBANY EMPIRE STRIKES BACK - a weekend of events by and in aid of Deptford's answer to Chats Palace which was axed recently in the round of Arts Council cuts.
- Thu 25 at 8 pm ... Youth Night with TWO TONE THEATRE, BASEMENT DANCERS, MUSIC FOR FRONT ROOMS, BASEMENT DRAMA GROUP & CHATS ORCHESTRA.
- Fri 26 at 8 pm ... Albany Empire Strikes Back with a night of live music.
- Sat 27 at 8 pm ... Albany Empire Cabaret with DEBBIE BISHOP and FRIENDS OF THE COMBINATION THEATRE COMPANY.
- Sun 28 noon ... Trad Jazz with GRAHAM READ. 60p (kids free)
- Sun 28 at 8 pm ... Albany Empire Strikes Back with a VARIETY NITE: dance, bands, cabaret and lots of laughs.

HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

THEATRE REVIEW

To See, Or Not To See!



Frank Grimes as Hamlet - plus friend

HAMLET, by William Shakespeare, directed by Lindsay Anderson at the Theatre Royal Stratford East.

It was with mixed feelings that I took my seat in the auditorium of the Theatre Royal to see Lindsay Anderson's production of Hamlet. How can you review a play which is probably the best known and most often discussed of the bard's writings, with all the pronouncements of its poetic metaphors and iambic pentameters? Throwing this aside, I decided that the most important test of a good play is if it entertains - and not mystifies - the audience. Using this yardstick, the Theatre Royal's production came off with good marks, although some of the cast 'could try harder'.

On the whole the performances of the major characters was entertaining, but there were times when I felt as if I was listening to a classroom recital rather than a dramatic discourse. It is obviously not easy to turn Elizabethan verse into a theatrical style that can be understood by a modern audience; but it can be done, and Frank Grimes' portrayal of the tormented Hamlet as an intelligent but somewhat paranoid young prince (who might have benefitted from a bit of social work counselling) showed how successfully this can be achieved. Unfortunately, this was marred by some of the other actors who seemed to be simply reading out their lines and their performances emerged as flat and characterless. The worst example was Del Henney who played Claudius the usurping king. His failure to come across as a ruthless murderer desperate to hide his crime

came to a head when at a most tense moment his line "It is the poisoned cup, it is too late", drew a roar of laughter from the audience, and left one feeling just how he was capable of plotting his way to the throne.

There were some other moments when amateurism intruded into the play. For example, the appearance of the ghost of Hamlet's father shrouded in an eerie light was very impressive, but one's belief in this supernatural apparition paled a little when one realised that he was carrying something as earthly as a torch in his hands.

All this aside, there were some very gripping and intentionally amusing scenes and although director Lindsay Anderson has kept the play essentially intact he had chosen to present a less sombre and, in my view, a much more accessible interpretation of the turmoil and gory deeds surrounding the Danish prince. No mean feat, when you consider there are six murders, one suicide and two cases of madness in the space of three hours. It is easier to sympathise with a Hamlet who is capable of engaging in witty dialogue and standing on his head when bored with Polonius' banterings and he comes across as someone who, though duty-bound to avenge his father's death, is not really pathological enough to carry it out successfully.

One of the most entertaining moments is, however, brought off by comedian Bob Todd as the gravedigger. His performance alone, chucking the odd skull out of the grave and making drunken comments, shows just how alive Shakespeare can be.

Supplementary Benefit

This is the second in a series of articles written with the help of the Hackney Law Centre and the Citizens' Advice Bureau. They are designed to give simple to understand advice and information to those who have problems in getting to grips with the Social Security System and, for people about to sign on, to provide information on what benefits you are entitled to. This week we are covering Supplementary Benefit; in future issues we will be dealing with other areas of social security.

MIKE SMITH

Mike Smith has been unemployed for a year. He has a wife who works part-time and earns £18 per week. He pays rent and rates of £22.85 per week. There are two children in the family aged 8 and 15. Mike cannot claim unemployment benefit as he has exhausted all his National Insurance Contributions and therefore will have to claim Supplementary Benefit.

Although Mike doesn't receive unemployment benefit, he still has to sign on each week at the local employment office or Jobcentre where he will be given a form B1 to take to his local Department of Health and Social Security office. The address of the DHSS is in the phone book under Health and Social Security. The B1 form will enable him to claim Supplementary

Benefit.

Once the B1 form is taken to the DHSS, Mike will be given an appointment to see an officer so that his claim for benefit can be dealt with. The officer will look at the commitments Mike has each week in the way of rent and rates and will want details of any income (child benefit, earnings etc) he receives. Therefore Mike will have to take details of his wife's earnings, child benefit book and rent book, rates bill, to show how much he pays out each week and what income he has. The Supplementary Benefit rates for Mike and his wife are £34.60 plus £7.30 for child aged 8; £10.90 for child aged 15 plus £22.85 rent and rates, making a total requirement of £75.65. From this figure, the income of £9.50 child benefit plus £14 of wife's earnings (the first £4 is ignored) will be

deducted, leaving a balance of £52.15. This is the Supplementary Benefit Mike will receive each week.

Mary Adams has just been made redundant. She has received a redundancy payment of £2,600. As Mary Adams has not sufficient National Insurance contributions, she cannot claim Unemployment Benefit or Supplementary Benefit as she has capital of over £2,000.

MR GRANT

Mr Grant is a pensioner. He receives a retirement pension of £31.65 per week. His rent is £14.75 per week and rates £9.60 per week. The one-bedroomed flat is hard to heat and as Mr Grant is a diabetic, he needs a special diet. He will be paid the long-term rate of Supplementary Benefit (this is payable to pensioners, disabled people and those not required to sign on) which is £27.15 plus rent and rates £24.35 plus £1.40 heating addition (paid when home is difficult to heat) plus £2.80 diet allowance. His requirements are £55.70, from which his pension of £31.65 is deducted as income. Mr Grant will therefore receive a supplement of £24.05 per week.

The examples above provide a very simple picture of what to do. In practice there are a lot of things that you may find puzzling or don't understand. If you need further advice or information, go and see your local advice centre.

W.E.A.

June classes:

TRADES UNIONS AND THE ECONOMY

*Alternative Economic Strategy
*Workers Control *The TUC's plan for National Recovery
*What's wrong with British Management?

Course and economic literature absolutely free. Every Tuesday, 7pm, Hackney Labour Club, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

RADICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON

Wed 17 June, 7pm: Anti-prison lawyer Tony Ward on "What is a Radical Alternative."

Wed 24 June, 7pm: "Second Chance" a local alternative looks at crime and punishment in Hackney.

Both at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

WOMEN TODAY

Every Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm, Hoxton Hall, 128a Hoxton Street, N.1. Lively classes on a wide range of issues. Creche facilities.

HACKNEY WRITERS' WORKSHOP

A workshop for local people who find poetry and prose an important means of self-expression, and meet to listen to each other's work every other Wednesday. 8pm, 10 and 24 June, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8

BRANCH MEETING

Thurs 18 June, 8pm, Centerprise 136 Kingsland High St, E8. Plans for future classes on printing, films, the press and alternatives to everything. Everyone welcome and more ideas for the autumn programme wanted.

The usual fee for a WEA class is 40p a meeting, 20p for claimants and pensioners.

HACKNEY LABOUR FORUM

Practical discussion for the Labour left.

The next Hackney Labour Forum will be on Sunday 14 June at 3pm in Hackney Town Hall, front entrance. Topics will include the progress of council strategy for 1982 and a look at the local scene following Merle Amory's talk. Convenor Brynley Heaven, 249 3149.

ADVERTISEMENT



Tel : 254 6677

Weekly programmes:

Mon 1 June for six days Divine Madness & Blazing Saddles

Mon 22 June for six days Atlantic City

Sunday Matinees:

June 7: Kings of the Road

June 14 The Damned & Wifemistress (subtitled)

We regret that the remainder of the June programmes was not available when we went to press. For further details, and the times of each programme, please contact the cinema.

The Rio Cinema is situated in the centre of Hackney and provides a wide variety of British, Continental and American films, with special late night shows and Sunday matinees.

Buses: 67,76,149,243.. Five minutes from Dalston Junction (BR) and buses 30,38,48,277,22.

KEEPING THE NHS ALIVE

Over recent months the press has paid a lot of homage to the virtues of private medicine and, with the organised run-down of the National Health Service by the Tory Government, health insurance and private medicine is fast becoming a boom industry. If you have been waiting months

for a simple operation on the NHS, it seems a much better option to pay a few pounds a month and have your operation in a private clinic. But private medicine survives simply by draining the resources of the NHS: by taking over the more lucrative aspects of health care and enticing away NHS trained nurses (who don't get such a good deal in the private sector anyway).

Private care is not such a wonderful alternative when you consider the fact that most insurance schemes exclude all but the simplest of ailments and if you do get a serious complaint treated you'll probably have a heart attack then they present you with the bill!

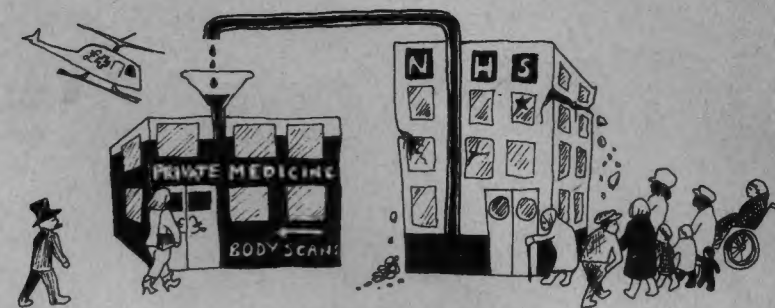
GOING PRIVATE

Under the present Government the signs are that private medicine is going to be encouraged at the expense of the NHS. Health Minister

Gerard Vaughan has said that 25% of health care should be provided by the private sector. Health insurance, like Private Patients' Plan and BUPA, is a profitable and growing business and in a year the number of people covered by this insurance has grown by 25% to over 3 million.

Over the past two years the Tories have encouraged the growth of private medicine in a number of ways, including abolishing the Health Service Board which controlled the numbers of pay beds in hospitals, changing consultants' contracts to encourage them to spend time on private patients, and allowing tax relief on private insurance for those earning under £8,500 a year.

Meanwhile in the National Health Service hospitals and wards are being closed down, there are huge staff shortages, combined with worsening conditions and low pay, and waiting lists are growing longer. In 1980 the law was



changed to allow hospitals to raise money by charity and run lotteries, and in March this year Patrick Jenkin announced that he had already saved £750 million on the NHS.

TWO-TIER

It is clear that a two-tier health system is being set up - an impoverished, charity-backed NHS for those who are not 'profitable' such as the chronic sick, the elderly and the disabled, and profit-motivated health care for those who have the profitable illnesses and can pay.

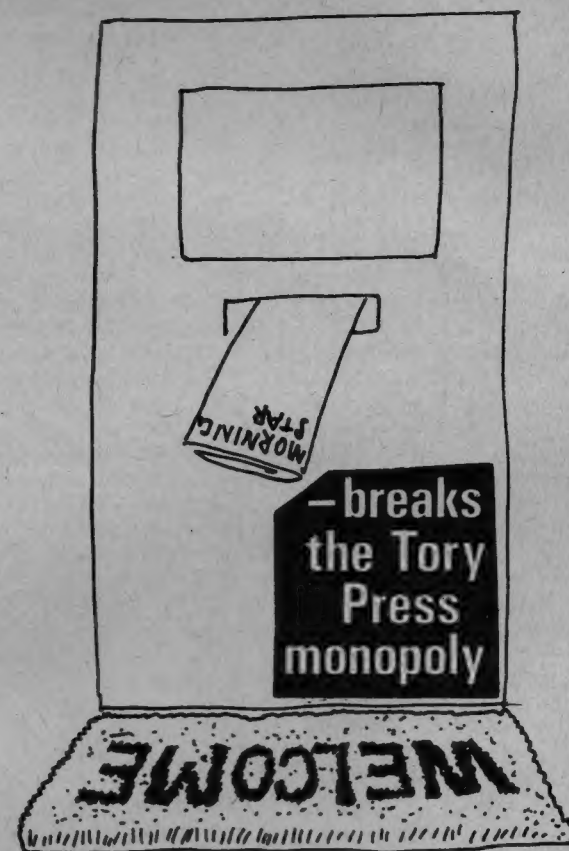
In an attempt to fight this onslaught on public health care, Fightback is starting up a campaign to oppose the

growth of private hospitals and health schemes, escalate the fight against NHS cuts and stop the increase of workplace-based private health insurance schemes (especially those negotiated by trades unions). To help launch this campaign, they are holding a conference on 20 June at Starcross School, Islington to work out a strategy for fighting NHS cuts and the rise of private medicine. It is a delegate conference, open to cuts campaign groups and trades unions, especially those in the public and health sectors. For details of this conference, write to:

FIGHTBACK,
30 Camden Road,
LONDON NW1.

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available from your newsagent

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS holds regular meetings on Mondays at 8pm. We still have not completed our office move, so the venue of these meetings will vary in June. If you would like to come along to help write, produce or sell the next issue, then please ring 809 2889 (days) or 249 0311 (evenings).

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

FIGHT BACK FUND



Support for HPP's Fight Back Fund has decreased drastically recently, and the paper is still near financial extinction.

These are the hard facts, which we hope will shock you, our readers, into sending us a much-needed donation. We have so far received a total of £219, and are now just over two-thirds of the way towards our original target of £300. On top of this, it is now clear that this may not be enough to pay off our deficit, and that we will need still more.

Before you go away on holiday this summer, please think of HPP. It may not be here when you come back, if you don't support it. We have no big business to support us, no political parties pumping money in. We depend solely on sales and a small quantity of advertising. None of us gets paid for working on HPP - in fact, we make many personal sacrifices for the paper.

Please send us your donation now. Brick out Mrs Thatcher entirely, and we will be a good way there!

PETTY BUREAU

LABOUR PROMISED MANY RADICAL AND EXPENSIVE CHANGES IN ITS GLC ELECTION PROGRAMME. HOW WILL YOU GO ABOUT IMPLEMENTING THEM?



WELL...GIVEN THE SEVERE FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS UNDER WHICH WE ARE FORCED TO OPERATE, IT'LL BE A QUESTION OF VERY SELECTIVE PRIORITISATION...



BUT I THINK I CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT WE WILL BE PURSUING OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROGRAMME.



WELL - WE WON'T BE PAYING FOR IT.



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